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Amendment and Response

Serial No.: 10/810,956

Confirmation No.: 9825

Filed: March 26, 2004

For: THERMAL SURGICAL PROCEDURES AND COMPOSITIONS

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Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the above-identified application:

1. (Original) A method of performing a thermal surgical procedure, comprising:
identifying biological material to undergo the thermal surgical procedure;
contacting the biological material with an inflammation inducing composition, wherein inflammation is induced in at least a portion of the identified biological material; and
adjusting the temperature of the identified biological material, wherein at least a portion of the biological material is destroyed after undergoing the thermal surgical procedure.
2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein adjusting the temperature comprises lowering the temperature below a physiological temperature of the biological material.
3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein adjusting the temperature comprises raising the temperature above a physiological temperature of the biological material.
4. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the biological material is selected from the group consisting of cells, tissues, and combinations thereof.
5. (Original) The method of claim 4 wherein the cells are tumor cells.
6. (Original) The method of claim 4 wherein the tissues are selected from the group consisting of tumor tissues, liver tissue, prostate tissue, breast tissue, kidney tissue, vascular tissue, gastrointestinal tissue, muscle tissue, skin tissue, connective tissues, and combinations thereof.

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7-31. (Canceled)

32. (New) The method of claim 1 wherein the inflammation inducing composition comprises one component selected from the group consisting of at least one virus, at least one bacterium, ethanol, cytokines, interleukins, chemokines, oxygen-free radicals, bacterial lipopolysaccharides, and combinations thereof.

33. (New) The method of claim 32 wherein the cytokine is selected from the group consisting of TNF-alpha, truncated versions of TNF-alpha, and combinations thereof.

34. (New) The method of claim 1 wherein the inflammation inducing composition comprises a carrier selected from the group consisting of a saline solution, encapsulation in microbeads, encapsulation in nanobeads, retroviral gene therapy, impregnated gelfoam, and combinations thereof.

35. (New) A method of performing a thermal surgical procedure, comprising:
identifying biological material to undergo the thermal surgical procedure;

contacting the biological material with an inflammation inducing composition, wherein inflammation is induced in at least a portion of the identified biological material; and

adjusting the temperature of the identified biological material, wherein at least a portion of the biological material is destroyed after undergoing the thermal surgical procedure;

wherein the biological material is contacted with the inflammation inducing composition from about 1 hour to about 4 hours prior to adjusting the temperature of the biological material.

36. (New) The method of claim 35 wherein adjusting the temperature comprises lowering the temperature below a physiological temperature of the biological material.

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37. (New) The method of claim 35 wherein adjusting the temperature comprises raising the temperature above a physiological temperature of the biological material.
38. (New) The method of claim 35 wherein the biological material is selected from the group consisting of cells, tissues, and combinations thereof.
39. (New) The method of claim 38 wherein the cells are tumor cells.
40. (New) The method of claim 38 wherein the tissues are selected from the group consisting of tumor tissues, liver tissue, prostate tissue, breast tissue, kidney tissue, vascular tissue, gastrointestinal tissue, muscle tissue, skin tissue, connective tissues, and combinations thereof.
41. (New) The method of claim 35 wherein the inflammation inducing composition comprises one component selected from the group consisting of at least one virus, at least one bacterium, ethanol, cytokines, interleukins, chemokines, oxygen-free radicals, bacterial lipopolysaccharides, and combinations thereof.
42. (New) The method of claim 41 wherein the cytokine is selected from the group consisting of TNF-alpha, truncated versions of TNF-alpha, and combinations thereof.
43. (New) The method of claim 35 wherein the inflammation inducing composition comprises a carrier selected from the group consisting of a saline solution, encapsulation in microbeads, encapsulation in nanobeads, retroviral gene therapy, impregnated gelfoam, and combinations thereof.
44. (New) A method of performing a thermal surgical procedure, comprising:
identifying biological material to undergo the thermal surgical procedure;
contacting the biological material with an inflammation inducing composition for an

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interval of about 4 hours to about 48 hours, wherein inflammation is induced in at least a portion of the identified biological material; and

adjusting the temperature of the identified biological material, wherein at least a portion of the biological material is destroyed after undergoing the thermal surgical procedure.

45. (New) The method of claim 44 wherein adjusting the temperature comprises lowering the temperature below a physiological temperature of the biological material.

46. (New) The method of claim 44 wherein adjusting the temperature comprises raising the temperature above a physiological temperature of the biological material.

47. (New) The method of claim 44 wherein the biological material is selected from the group consisting of cells, tissues, and combinations thereof.

48. (New) The method of claim 47 wherein the cells are tumor cells.

49. (New) The method of claim 47 wherein the tissues are selected from the group consisting of tumor tissues, liver tissue, prostate tissue, breast tissue, kidney tissue, vascular tissue, gastrointestinal tissue, muscle tissue, skin tissue, connective tissues, and combinations thereof.

50. (New) The method of claim 44 wherein the inflammation inducing composition comprises one component selected from the group consisting of at least one virus, at least one bacterium, ethanol, cytokines, interleukins, chemokines, oxygen-free radicals, bacterial lipopolysaccharides, and combinations thereof.

51. (New) The method of claim 50 wherein the cytokine is selected from the group consisting of TNF-alpha, truncated versions of TNF-alpha, and combinations thereof.

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52. (New) The method of claim 44 wherein the inflammation inducing composition comprises a carrier selected from the group consisting of a saline solution, encapsulation in microbeads, encapsulation in nanobeads, retroviral gene therapy, impregnated gelfoam, and combinations thereof.